Trains run with Diesel on Electrified Railway Lines

†580. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trains are run, using diesel as fuel, in the country on electrified rail lines;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it costs more to run trains with diesel as compared to electricity; and

(c) if so, the number of trains run with diesel on electrified rail lines during 1997, 1998 and 1999 and the extra cost which the Department had to bear on this accout ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The relative economics between diesel and electric traction depends upon a variety of factors such as cost of electrification, wage rates, load of train, traffic density, proportion of coaching and freight traffic, type of rolling stock and the locomotives employed etc. This is also dependent upon the price of HSD oil and electricity tariff which are fluctuating widely over the years and from state to state. The line haul cost of running trains under the two modes of tractions as per the latest published documents (1997-98) is given below :

(Rupees per thousand Gross Tonne Kilometres)

Type of traffic	Diesel	Electric
Coaching	115.18	138.46
Freight	80.59	76.61

Under existing procedures the costs are computed on the aggregate average of the entire Broad Gauge and not on a section by section basis on different periods of time. The data of number of Diesel trains running on electrified routes is not maintained since such movements have to be undertaken on day-to-day basis subject to operational exigencies.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.